(xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;

(xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;

(xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice;

(xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;

(xvii) Expansion of the higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should be subject to external review once in five years.

(xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;

(xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action within a definite time-frame.

(c) and (d) Some complaints have been received against the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) which are being looked into by the vigilance Section of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The information regarding complaints against the Medical Council of India is being collected from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) to (g) The Yash Pal Committee in its Report has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) with constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC). The Committee has further recommended that the status of the Chairperson of the commission should be analogous to that of the Chief Election Commissioner and that of the members should be comparable to the Election Commissioners.

Setting up IITs and Central Universities

1094. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up sixteen new Central Universities and three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) if so, what are these States where Central Universities would be set up;

(c) by when the universities and IITs are expected to be made operational; and

(d) what is the expected amount of money required for setting up of the universities and IITs separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government had decided to establish sixteen new Central Universities and eight new IITs during the Eleventh Plan period.

(b) Fifteen new Central Universities, including conversion of three erstwhile State Universies, have already been established in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand by enactment of the Central Universities Act, 2009 which came into force on 15.1.2009.

(c) The new Central Universities are expected to start their academic activities from the current academic session itself commencing August-September, 2009. As regards the new IITs, six of them have already started functioning from the academic session 2008-2009 and the remaining two are expected to become functional from the current session 2009-10.

(d) While the financial requirement of fifteen new Universities is estimated at Rs. 3,330 crore to meet the non-recurring as well as the recurring expenditure during the financial years 2008-2009 to 2011-2012, an expenditure of Rs. 760 crore is expected to be incurred on setting up of each new IIT.

Violation of UGC regulations

1095. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has put as many as forty State private universities under scanner after it found several of them having affiliated colleges, off-campus centres and even franchises outside the territorial jurisdiction of their respective States in violation of UGC regulations;

(b) if so, whether deemed university concept needs right direction; and

(c) if so, to what extent the UGC has been able to take action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) All the privately funded State Universities have been